

February 8, 1980

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



390044

The Honorable Lewis N. Dodak
State Representative - District 36
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Subject: Bridgeport and TAYMOUTH Townships
Foundry Sand Sites - Saginaw County

Dear Representative Dodak:

On October 22, 1979, water samples from all monitor wells and some local domestic wells were collected by representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Public Health.

During the normal procedure for sampling, the multiple use bailer was rinsed with acetone to prevent any carry-over between monitor wells. Upon receipt of the analysis from the Departments of Natural Resources and Public Health labs, a comparison was made to verify and confirm the results. The comparison showed considerable discrepancies on certain analytical results.

After a number of phone calls and interagency and interdivisional discussions relating to similar situations where cross contamination occurred by use of acetone wash (see attached memo), a meeting was held on January 22, 1980, with representatives from the DNR and Department of Public Health to further discuss the inconsistent results. During the course of the meeting, the various reasons for possible contamination of the wells was discussed including possible carry-over contamination and the results that could be attributed to the use of acetone as a cleaner. It is not common practice to find perchlorethylene and significant levels of certain metals in monitor wells at sites used for foundry sand disposal. With this foundation, it was the consensus of the attendees of the meeting that the validity of the previous results were questionable and it was necessary to resample the test wells and establish some specific controls on future sampling at this site. Therefore, another split sampling has been scheduled for February 20, 1980, with the following controls being placed into effect on the sample procedure:

The Honorable Lewis M. Dodak

February 8, 1980

Page 2

- 1) The monitor wells at the site will be purged (drained of water) at least twice before actually taking new samples. This should remove and/or significantly reduce the volume of acetone remaining in the wells.
- 2) Provide 13 bailers, one for each well, which will be thoroughly washed with distilled water and used exclusively for that well. One bailer will be retained as a control. This will eliminate any possibility of carry-over contamination.

To assure better reproducibility the labs have agreed to analyze the samples using the exact same procedures. The variance in the previous results from the two labs may have been from differences in the sampling procedure.

Enclosed is a copy of the October 22 results. We have not distributed this data as we certainly cannot at this time verify the information obtained. Upon receiving the results from the next sampling, a copy will be forwarded to your office.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Elaine Brown from the Region III Resource Recovery Division at area 517, phone 322-1300.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Tanner
Director

HAT: E. Brown:sl

Enclosure